

April 29, 1975

PRESIDENT: Bill is advanced. LB 311.

CLERK: Read LB 311.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Anderson.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I move the adoption of the committee amendments. The original bill that proposed to raise the salaries of the Public Service Commissioners from \$17,500 to \$25,000. The committee amendment is to reduce that \$25,000 to \$20,000. The committee did in arriving at this figure did some checking with Public Service Commission salaries that are paid in other states. We felt that this is a reasonable figure, and we felt that this also took into account the fact that the salary can not go into effect until 1977 and that it can be raised every second year. I move the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Any discussion? If not the question is shall the committee amendments be adopted? The question is shall the committee amendments be adopted to LB311? Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 9 nays.

PRESIDENT: Amendments have been adopted. What do you want to do with the bill Senator Moylan?

SENATOR MOYLAN: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I move that LB311 be advanced from general file to E & R Initial. The purpose of this bill of course is to raise the annual salary of the members on the Public Service Commission. The members of this commission are the only elected officials of the State of Nebraska who can not have any other source of personal income. The duties of this commission necessitates that they make legislative, judicial decisions which effect over half of the economy of the state. This raise annually will not take effect until the beginning of a new term of a members which will be in January, 1977. Now as Senator Anderson mentions he compared the salaries of members of other states paid to the public service commission. I have a list of them here. Colorado pays \$28,000; Missouri pays \$28,000; Iowa pays \$24,000; Kansas pays \$23,500 to the Chairman, and \$21,000 to the members; Minnesota pays \$22,000; North Dakota pays \$21,000 Wyoming pays \$19,000 and Nebraska is fifth from the bottom \$17,500. Further the position of the state regulator and in many other states is not a full time position as it is in Nebraska, and in no other states are the commissioners precluded from engaging in other forms of livelihood. The Nebraska Public Service Commissions are restrained by law from having any other occupation or from earning any other salary except that paid by the state for the public service regulation. The last increase granted to the Public Service Commissioners was granted by the Legislature in 1972, and the salary allowed in this bill will not become effective until 1977. The proposal is for the annual increase, the proposal contains in LB311 represents an annual salary increase